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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Identical letters dated 21 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to transmit the following information:

The United Nations is currently marking the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), which prohibits incitement to violence and terrorism. We are also approaching the fourteenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) on counter-terrorism, which followed the terrorist attacks in New York on 11 September 2001. On this occasion, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the United Nations, its competent entities and its Member States to make a genuine and sincere commitment to fighting terrorism; to fully and decisively enforce the texts that we have adopted over the years; to hold States sponsors of terrorism to account; and to prevail on them to refrain from violating international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Terrorists have been targeting the State and people of Syria for over four years, and they have now reached an unprecedented degree of criminality and savagery. We have described to the Security Council the acts of terrorism that have taken place in Syria. Most recently, terrorist groups launched missiles at the cities of Damascus and Aleppo and other Syrian towns and villages and their facilities and infrastructure. On 14 September, two blasts struck the city of Hasakah. These and other terrorist acts require a strong international commitment to tackling the roots of terrorism and its sources of funding. Despite their importance, resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1624 (2005), 2170 (2014), 2178 (2014) and 2199 (2015) have unfortunately been neglected in numerous cases, whether because certain Member States believe that they are safe from terrorism and violent extremism, or because certain other States face a gap in means and capacities, or because Governments lack political will or are directly or indirectly involved in supporting or glorifying terrorism or in inciting violence, terrorist acts and barbaric crimes.

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The counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council require all Member States to take a set of legislative and practical measures that are necessary in order to fight the scourge of terrorism, which poses a threat to international peace and security. Yet the Governments of certain States Members of this Organization, particularly Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Qatar, continue to provide every form of support for terrorism and terrorists, including funds and weapons, extremist *takfirist* ideology and foreign mercenary recruits. The Governments of certain other States, some of which are members of the Security Council, have continued to politicize counter-terrorism issues. They take a frankly ideological approach to the topic, turning a blind eye to the glaring violations committed by State sponsors of terrorism, which ought to be held rigorously accountable. Citing pretexts that have become all too familiar to everyone, certain Member States have let their territory become a safe haven for extremist groups, which have free rein to incite violence and terrorism, spread their hateful rhetoric and sow discord among religions. What are the Security Council and the United Nations doing about all of this?

The United Nations should also prevent the Erdoğan regime in Turkey from exploiting the suffering of Syrian citizens who have been displaced by Turkish-backed terrorists and by the unilateral coercive measures imposed on Syria by certain Member States. The Turkish regime has forced those people to flee in order to create a large-scale humanitarian crisis. Turkey believes that such a crisis will bring Europe and the United States to establish a terrorist hotbed in northern Syria. As part of the same endeavour, Turkey has asked to have an item regarding the Syrian refugees included on the agenda of the General Assembly. That step paves the way for Turkey to exploit the so-called international humanitarian summit, which will take place in 2016 in Istanbul, in order to promote Turkey's craven agenda and trade on the suffering of the Syrians.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates that all parties must coordinate with it in advance and cooperate fully in order to eliminate terrorism as represented by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Nusrah Front and other terrorist organizations, entities, groups and individuals associated with the Al-Qaida organization, which are active on Syrian and Iraqi territory and pose a threat to regional and international peace and security. The United States, Britain, France, Canada and Australia have sought to justify their intervention in Syria by citing the fight against ISIL. They have invoked Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, but have not consulted with the Syrian Government. That course of action distorts the provisions of the Charter and manipulates international law. Such an assault on Syrian sovereignty will merely give terrorism a freer hand. The only productive way to combat terrorism remains the establishment of an effective international coalition within the framework of international law and with the participation of concerned States, particularly Syria, which is the main party confronting terrorism in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative